

Week Ending Friday, August 5, 2005

**Statement on Congressional Action
on Highway Legislation**

July 29, 2005

I congratulate the Congress for completing a highway bill that will improve highway safety, modernize our roads, reduce traffic congestion, and create jobs. I am pleased that Congress met these objectives in a fiscally responsible way and without raising gas taxes. This important legislation will help provide the funding needed to carry out overdue work on critical highway and transportation projects, and it will strengthen and modernize the transportation networks vital to America's continued economic growth. I look forward to signing it into law.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

July 30, 2005

Good morning. This year Congress and I have addressed many key priorities of the American people, and we're making great progress.

At the start of the year, I urged Congress to ease the burden of junk lawsuits on American workers, businesses, and families, so Congress passed, and I signed bipartisan class-action reform. We called for restoring integrity to the bankruptcy process, so Congress passed, and I signed commonsense reform of our Nation's bankruptcy laws. I requested vital funds for our men and women in uniform, so Congress passed, and I proudly signed critical legislation to give our troops the resources they need to fight and win the war on terror.

This past week has brought even more progress, with four major achievements. First, I signed into law a patient safety bill that will improve our health care system by reducing medical errors. Second, Congress

came to an agreement on a highway bill that will improve safety, modernize our roads and bridges, and create jobs. Third, Congress passed the Central American-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement. This historic agreement will reduce barriers to American goods, services, and crops, and make our Nation more secure by strengthening the young democracies in our neighborhood.

Finally, after years of debate, Republicans and Democrats in Congress came together to pass a comprehensive energy plan that will reduce America's dependence on foreign sources of energy. This bill will encourage conservation and efficiency, increase domestic production, promote alternative and renewable resources, and modernize the electricity grid. I thank the Members of Congress who worked so hard on this vital legislation, and I look forward to signing it into law.

As Members of Congress return home for their August recess, I plan to travel to seven States around the country. I will talk to Americans about our growing economy. Thanks to the tax relief we passed and the spending restraint, our economy today is growing faster than any other major industrialized country. The unemployment rate is down to 5 percent, lower than the average of the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. We created more than 2 million jobs in the past 12 months. More Americans are working today than ever before in our Nation's history.

The 2005 deficit is projected to be \$94 billion less than previously expected, and we're now ahead of the pace needed to meet my goal of cutting the deficit in half by 2009.

We have more to do, and I will not be satisfied until every American who wants to work can find a job. I look forward to talking to the American people about our plans to continue strengthening the economic security of America's seniors and working families.

During August, I will also meet with our troops and their families and update the

American people on the latest developments in the war on terror. We have a comprehensive strategy in place. We're improving our homeland security and intelligence. The House renewed the key provisions of the PATRIOT Act that were set to expire at the end of this year, and I call on the Senate to do the same.

We're also spreading freedom, because free countries are peaceful. And we're staying on the offensive against the terrorists, fighting them abroad so we do not have to face them here at home.

I also urge Members of the Senate to use August to prepare to act on my nomination of Judge John Roberts to serve on the Supreme Court. This talented and capable man will fairly interpret the Constitution and laws, not legislate from the bench. Judge Roberts' time on the DC Circuit Court, his service at the Department of Justice and at the White House in two administrations, his impressive career as a top attorney in private practice, and his stellar academic and legal background demonstrate why Americans of all points of view have expressed their support for him.

One of the highest honors for any lawyer is to argue a case before the Supreme Court. In his extraordinary career, Judge Roberts has argued a remarkable 39 cases before the Nation's highest court. I look forward to working with the Senate in the weeks ahead so that Judge Roberts can receive a timely and dignified hearing and be confirmed before the Court reconvenes on October the 3d.

Our achievements so far this year show how much can be done when we come together to do what is right for the American people. When Congress returns in September, I will continue to work with the Republicans and Democrats to build on this good progress for all Americans.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:36 a.m. on July 29 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on July 30. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 29 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks to Reporters at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland

July 30, 2005

President's Health/Visit With Marines

The President. I just finished two things. One, I had my physical, and I'm feeling pretty good. It's a great hospital to come to to get your physical.

But I also visited with some brave marines who have been wounded. It's a remarkable experience to meet with these incredibly courageous souls who keep their spirit. And I understand why they're serving the country. I met with their parents. I met with the healers who work here at Bethesda. It's a—it's such a great credit to our country to have a place such as this.

So I want to thank you for having me, and thanks for giving me my physical.

Rear Adm. Robinson. Your welcome, sir.

The President. Thank you.

Q. How's your health, sir?

The President. She's going to put out the return. I think you'll find it's pretty good. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:16 p.m. Participating in the visit was Rear Adm. Adam M. Robinson, Jr., USN, commander, National Naval Medical Center. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to the National Scout Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia

July 31, 2005

Daniel, thank you for your introduction. It's such an honor to be here. Laura and I join Americans across our country in extending our sympathy and prayers to the families of the Scout leaders who lost their lives so tragically earlier this week. The men you lost were models of good citizenship, leaders who stepped forward to serve a good and selfless cause. As Scout leaders, they devoted themselves to helping young men develop the character and skills they need to realize their dreams. These men will always be remembered for their leadership and kindness. And you Scouts honor them by living up to the ideals of the scouting they served.